

APRIL 19, 2012

The Town Council met in regular session at the Town Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Present were: CAMPBELL, GIBBS, WARRUM, STRAW, and WALKER along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Nathan Maudlin.

The following visitors were present: Vicki Campbell, Gail & Jim Norton, Pam Robinson, Carroll Marcus, Mick McConnell, David Flanders, Jeanne Maudlin, Curt & Paula Schmitt, Gene Culiver, Erik & Lora Arneberg, Greg Oeth, Scott Champlin, Bobby Grider, and Caleb Harvey.

Councilman Straw made and Gibbs seconded a motion the minutes of the previous regular and special meetings be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Walker reported all needed repairs have been completed at the wastewater treatment plant.

Town Marshal Scott Champlin requested permission to do a public service announcement against domestic violence for Willow Tree. Council approved the request.

Councilman Straw announced construction on the new fire/EMS station is complete and both entities will be moving in very soon. On May 12, a ribbon cutting will be held at 11 a.m., and an open house will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the facility. Food and drinks will be served at the open house.

Town Marshal Champlin stated April 30 is the last day to register a golf cart before the fee doubles.

Park Board President Jeanne Maudlin reported thirteen street trees have been planted. The funds for this project came from the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation and the chili cook-off. She thanked Bobby Grider and other Town workers for their assistance with this project. Mrs. Maudlin encouraged citizens who have a vacant public right of way in front of their home to contact Town Hall of their desire to have a tree placed there.

Mrs. Maudlin asked if the Park Board could have a key to the water hydrant at the tree farm. Gas/street superintendent Bobby Grider stated he would provide a key.

Mrs. Maudlin announced that WNIN will be airing a program entitled "Forests at Work" at 8 p.m. on May 24. Parts of this program were filmed during the updating of the Town's tree inventory in the fall.

Mrs. Maudlin thanked Barb & Mick McConnell for purchasing a mirror for the women's restroom at Murphy Park.

Mrs. Maudlin announced the Town has been awarded Tree City status for the ninth consecutive year.

Gas/street superintendent Grider reported his part-time employee is painting curbs.

Gas/street superintendent Grider stated he had looked into fire rings for Murphy Park. The 36" rings are available at Rural King for \$39.95. No decision was made.

Councilman Gibbs announced spring clean-up day is May 4. He encouraged residents to look at the list of what items will be accepted before putting items out. It was noted that wood needs to be put out separately from other items.

Councilman Warrum announced the Garden Club is doing a beautification project at Red Bud Park. Some trees are going to be removed and new ones planted.

Carroll Marcus, representing the New Harmony Alumni Association, requested permission to close some streets on May 26 for the Alumni. The request had been previously submitted in writing. Councilman Gibbs made and Warrum seconded a motion the street closure request be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ray McConnell, co-chair of the Bicentennial Commission, presented a written report from the last Commission meeting. Numerous groups have submitted their plans for Bicentennial events. The Charles Ford Memorial Home, represented by Vicki Campbell, needs to be added to the

Commission. This requires an amendment to the Town's ordinance, and will be done at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Walker made and Gibbs seconded a motion that festival applications for the Farmer's Market and Arts in Harmony be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Campbell opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2012-3, which annexes .019 acres owned by Erik and Lora Arneberg. They have requested that this small section be annexed so they may construct a garage on the property that will be wholly inside the Town limits. The ordinance will be up for adoption at the next meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins presented a maintenance agreement for the Town's meter reading hardware. The cost to renew is \$1254. Councilman Straw made and Walker seconded a motion the maintenance agreement be renewed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Jeanne Maudlin, representing the Friends of the Workingmen's Institute, invited everyone to a lecture they are sponsoring at 7:30 p.m. on May 3. She also reported that the Friend's bicentennial project is to conduct oral history interviews. She asked Council members to participate in the project.

Councilman Walker reported the Town has signed an agreement with the Ribeyre Gym Restoration Group to oversee the public restrooms. The restrooms will be open from April 21, 2012 through October 15, 2012. The total cost of the agreement is approximately \$2,000., which includes the \$500. the Town contributes to supplies. Hollie Crag will be cleaning the restrooms again this year. Councilman Gibbs made and Walker seconded a motion the restroom agreement be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Straw made and Gibbs seconded a motion to increase the Town's umbrella liability coverage to \$5 million. This will be done when the policy renews in August. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Campbell reported he had attended the Posey Co. Council meeting to request financial assistance (\$40,000/yr for three years) with the New Harmony School building. They would not commit to anything without having input from the Posey Co. Commissioners. President Campbell then attended the Commissioners meeting and made the same presentation he had made to the Council. John Taylor, with the Posey Co. Economic Development Partnership, was in attendance and spoke in support of President Campbell's proposal. President Campbell will be attending the next Posey Co. Council and Commissioners meetings and asking for a vote on the proposal. He will then report back to the Town Council at their May meeting.

Councilman Walker reported she drafted an ordinance to regulate fireworks. She asked Council members to review it and if they would like any changes made to notify her. The ordinance will be up for further discussion and/or adoption at the next meeting.

Councilman Warrum reported she drafted new guidelines for Maple Hill Cemetery. The current guidelines were adopted in 2001 by the Board of Regents, which has since been abolished. Councilman Warrum obtained guidelines from several other cemeteries which she used as a basis for drafting the proposed guidelines. The Boy Scouts have not yet done their work day at the cemetery, but they are still planning on doing it. Councilman Warrum stated Schum Monuments will be delivering a monument within the next week and will be able to reset some of the old stones that have shifted at that time.

Councilman Straw stated a new salary ordinance will need to be adopted at the May meeting so it can be effective for wages paid on June 1. President Campbell stated it has been brought up that the zoning administrator needs to be considered for an increase at this time also.

Councilman Straw made and Walker seconded a motion the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins reported she has been contacted by Veolia Environmental Services, the Town's trash collection contractor. They have purchased compressed natural gas trucks, and will be converting all their customers over to the use of the new trucks. On May 4, since Veolia will have extra trucks in Town for spring clean up day, they will be delivering waste carts to all residents. They would then like residents to use these waste carts for their trash the following week.

President Campbell stated he has contacted NewWave Communications regarding the wi-fi they have agreed to install. The equipment is on order and they are looking for locations to install it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

David Campbell, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer